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MEMPHIS, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 7, 1862.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY.

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FROM NASHVILLE.

Our latest information from Nashville is obtained from a gentleman who left that city on Sunday night last. Up to that time but little communication had taken place between the citizens and the Federal soldiers, the latter continuing to arouse their animosity, despite the presence of the invaders. Business was still stagnant, notwithstanding the Federal commander had invited the people to return to their occupations and gave out assurances that they should be protected.

Gen. BURLEIGH, McCORM, CHITTENDEN and NELSON, with their commands, remained in the city and vicinity. Gen. GRANT and McCLELLAN, with their forces, withdrew the river on Friday and Saturday, on five of the Federal transports. Some thirty or forty men, as well as a number of officers, were sent to Gen. Grant's headquarters at the St. Louis, crossing the river, had arrived up to the time our informant left.

Gen. THOMAS C. BRIDGES' command was encamped about five miles from the city on the Mississippi river. Another encampment was made at the foot of the river, and was very much demanded by the exigencies of the crisis.

THE SITUATION ON THE RIVER. We learn that the Federal forces, eight regiments strong, occupied Columbia, Ky., on last Tuesday, the 4th inst.

It does not become us to write all that comes to our knowledge in relation to the number and position of our forces on the river above. But we can advise our people not to be lulled into false security by insidious and ignorant statements of the press and the public. We have seen on yesterday a private letter from an intelligent army officer, giving us an idea of the situation, which shows that we are not so well prepared as we should be.

He writes that they need a large force to man the river, and that the Federal forces are now in the city authorized to give as much as one hundred dollars bounty for each man, so as they seem into service. Has the time come, we ask, when we shall be called on to man, to fight their liberties and their property? The fate of Memphis and the Mississippi valley depends on our power to hold our position above.

It is not said that it was for want of men. Let us not rush forth, therefore, and fill up the vacant ranks, but let us be prepared.

THE EDITORIAL CONVENTION. The editorial convention, so long spoken of by the press, assembled at Atlanta, Georgia, on next Wednesday, the 12th inst. Nearly every influential journal in the Confederacy outside of New Orleans has advanced the order, and will doubtless be represented.

The object especially sought to be attained is the perfection of an arrangement looking to a permanent, extended, better organized, and more economical telegraphic news agency in the Confederacy. Other matters of interest will be discussed.

We are pleased to learn that Dr. G. GRACE, the popular President of the Southwest Telegraph Company, will probably be present on the occasion, when it is hoped he will lend the company such counsel and encouragement as will expedite the accomplishment of its laudable purpose. Other companies are invited to have representatives.

FROM KENT TENNESSEE. We have from Kent, Tennessee, dated the 4th, which states that General HOWARD had left for Nashville. He was in charge of Col. YOUNG and a guard of ten men. His transmission beyond the Confederate line had been ordered by Secretary BEXAMER.

Gen. E. KIRBY SMITH was hastily expected to arrive, to take command in East Tennessee. The Governor's proclamation, calling out the militia, was a great success in the eyes of the people. We are told that they are sent back by the northern generals since they cannot furnish arms for these model recruits.

Everything was quiet at Cumberland Gap on the 2d.

FROM NEW MADRID. We have information from New Madrid up to date of the 2d inst. Some little excitement had taken place in the city, but nothing doing had occurred. A Federal privateer repaired their forces, investing the place, as consisting of twenty-five regiments of infantry, three of cavalry, and twelve batteries of artillery.

On Monday night, a heavy cannonading took place, without any particular result.

Gen. McCORM, who was in command, was confident of being able to hold the position. Our troops were in the spirit.

The Federal forces were throwing up intrenchments four miles back from the river.

FROM AN ARMY OFFICER WHO ARRIVED ON THE VICKSBURG. This steamer reached this place at 2 P. M. yesterday. From New Madrid, we learn that up to the hour of her departure last evening there had been no fighting of consequence. On Tuesday night about 12 o'clock, our pickets attacked their enemy's position about two miles from town, when the enemy retired a battery to the outskirts of the village and opened fire.

They were soon driven back, however, by the fire from our gunboats.

It was expressed that the fight would be continued in earnest this morning. Our General is confident of success.

From one of our commissaries, captured yesterday, it was learned that the enemy's force is about 25,000.

Gen. JEFF THOMAS has crossed the plank road, with a force, to cut off reinforcements from the way of Vicksburg.

A REVELATION.—During a recent debate in Congress, F. D. BARKER made a statement which, if true, would show the entire responsibility of the Federal army in the late disaster.

It is stated that on July 1st, last, the fact that immediately after the ignominious retreat Gen. Scott was removed from command seems to attach to the surrender of Vicksburg.

It is stated that Gen. Patterson intended to leave the city, after the evacuation of the city, and to go to the aid of the Federal forces.

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LETTER FROM NASHVILLE.

We are permitted to use the following private letter, received in this city yesterday, from an intelligent citizen of Nashville. The spirit manifested by the people of that devoted city is such as will commend itself to the hearts of the least, even under the most discouraging circumstances.

NASHVILLE, March 3, 1862.

DEAR FRIEND:—It is with us to-night, on the way to the land of freedom, and I am sure that you will find it a most interesting and profitable journey.

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LETTER FROM THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL.

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.

The Presidential last day was very becomingly observed in this city. All business was suspended throughout the day, and the streets were filled with the throngs of mourning people, and the numerous churches were thronged.

The President himself attended a service at the Methodist church, and the services were very impressive.

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